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## Measuring evaporation

For obtaining daily estimates of potential evapotranspiration, the Class A evaporation pan is used. This evaporation pan, one of the standard pans recommended by WMO, is 1.1 m<sup>2</sup> wide and its water depth is around 20 cm. The same evaporation pan is widely used in various parts of the world, because it is simple, affordable and manageable. The results may also be used for global comparisons. The amount of evaporated water is obtained by measuring the daily water level fluctuations in the evaporation pan and the amount precipitation beside the pan. Evaporation is expressed in millimetres (mm).



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The observation season in Southern and Central Finland is from the beginning of May to the end of September. In Northern Finland it is about month shorter. The present monitoring network consists of 12 evaporation stations located all over the country. In Finland, the first continuous measurements of evaporation began in the late 1950's. Among the present monitoring network, the records of seven stations exceed 50 years of continuous observations. Currently, evaporation estimates are also computed by using hydrological models.